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ACI - M-10  
January 7, 1947

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

INT 614/1

Tenth Meeting  
January 7, 1947  
4:30-5 p.m.

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Minutes

Present: Messrs. Eddy, SA-E (Chairman)  
Braden, A-Br  
Hickerson (for A-D)  
Fearing, OCD (Consultant)  
Evans, OCL (Executive Secretary)

The Chairman announced that Colonel Fearing had been the Chairman of the ACI subcommittee for preparing the draft of proposals for the NIA/CIG directive on allocation of responsibilities for collection in the field, and that in view of the subject of this meeting Colonel Fearing was present to make any contribution his experience might suggest.

Circular Instructions to the Field on Allocation of Responsibilities for Collection

The Chairman presented a draft circular instruction which he proposed should be sent to all outposts of the Department to explain the procedures established under the new NIA directive which allocates responsibility for the collection and transmission of information from the field to Washington. He explained that this instruction would follow an instruction which is already in process of being dispatched and which would explain the organization of CIG and the Department's relation to it in the field of intelligence. The present instruction would further be accompanied by a copy of the NIA directive.

Mr. Hickerson proposed that on page 2 in paragraph 2 the word "danger" be altered to "situation." This proposal was accepted; the text otherwise remained unchanged.

The Chairman further explained that Mr. Briggs had proposed a circular of somewhat stronger content. He felt, however, that the present draft, while sufficiently explaining the position, was in a

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form which could advantageously be used for exchange with the services so as to elicit from them copies of their own instructions for comparison. The stronger draft could be held in reserve for use in some special connection, whereas the present text would be suitable for overall circulation. Mr. Braden expressed the hope that the new procedures would stop the dispatch of political and economic messages by other than State Department channels. The Chairman indicated that under the directive the chief of mission had power to control this matter.

Mr. Hickerson raised a question concerning the division of responsibility in economic matters. Colonel Fearing reported that this matter had been closely considered, and it had been discovered that the demands of the services ran into such detail that to take over entire responsibility for economic reporting would impose an unbearable burden upon the Department. In discussion on this point it was remarked that although in some areas experience had shown that great duplication and inferior reporting might result from divided responsibility for economic matters, in other areas there was no question that the Services had carried on vital and indispensable intelligence operations, as, for example, when the Navy reported on the oil situation in the Persian Gulf. Mr. Hickerson distinguished between the generalized responsibility for economic reporting which must rest in the State Department and information for specialized needs which the services should collect for themselves but to which they should unqualifiedly restrict themselves. The Chairman pointed out that such a distinction must be worked out in practice in the field since at present there was insufficient appreciation of such factors in Washington to permit more detailed formulation of the principle in any directive.

Mr. Hickerson inquired whether in view of the ambiguity in relation to economic matters there could be an understanding that the three departments would correlate their instructions. The Chairman indicated that this could not be required of the other departments, but that it was precisely the purpose of preparing the present draft that it should be used for consultation with the other departments and that he would approach them on this matter. Colonel Fearing further pointed out his hope to achieve increasing agreement with the other departments through the device of ad hoc allocation meetings to determine responsibility with relation to specific areas and problems.

The Chairman summarized the situation by stating that procedures under the new directive, as explained in the draft under consideration, were a good first step and formed an excellent basis for further development with other departments.

The Committee

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The Committee authorized distribution of the circular instruction subject to concurrence of the other directors of the geographic offices, which concurrence would be conveyed to the Chairman by Mr. Braden within a day or two. It was agreed that no further meeting of the Committee on this draft would be required unless there was suggested any substantial departure from the sense of the NIA directive.

VERIFIED:

Mau Evans  
Executive Secretary

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